SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA - 9 NOVEMBER 1984 - NEWSLETTER 3

FROM THE CHAIRMAN & THE SECRETARY

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PHONE: most schooldays (16.15 - 18.15 only) on 01 - 764 - 7671

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DEAR MEMBERS

Your Secretary having been transmuted, at the Annual General Meeting, into Chairman, this Newsletter accordingly becomes an occasional communication from that officer. Other changes at the AGM included Malcolm Tadd taking over as Secretary, and Roger Morgan as Treasurer. Sylvia Beamon remains a committee member and as editor of the Bulletin. Many 'thanks to all who sent contributions towards Sylvia's 'thankyou' present - in fact contributions are still arriving and at present we have about 25 pounds and are getting around to actually going shopping!

BULLETIN COVER / LETTERHEAD DESIGN COMPETITION

SOMETHING FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS! After ten years a new design for our Bulletin cover and letterheading seems appropriate. The device on the former is based on a Cornish fogou, whilst the emblem on the latter represents a souterrain in Normandy. Our Australian member PJ Simpson has offered 25 pounds for a worthwhile project; at the AGM it was decided to combine the two matters, and offer the 25 pounds as a prize for the best Bulletin cover and letterheading designs. Submit as many entries as you please to the Secretary in time for the judging at the Cambridge day conference on 26 January 1985.

Your drawings should be full size on white A4 paper, using bold black lines and tones suitable for photocopying.

Both the letterheading and the Bulletin should say SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA, but the cover should also carry the Bulletin number and a list of contents; also, and most importantly, draw a picture on the cover - a person gazing into an underground structure is one suggestion. For the letterheading you must include 'in association with Societe Francais d'Etudes des Souterrains' and 'Arbeitskreis fur Erdstallforschung' in small letters (and with all the accents and things computers can't usually cope with!), but also include a small logo or symbol. If you can also incorporate the logo into the Bulletin cover so much the better, for it

will become Sub Brit's emblem for years to come.

Conceal your identity by signing your design with a pseudonym and include a folded and sealed piece of paper with your real name inside and pseudonym outside.

BATH STONE QUARRY MUSEUM

The location of the new museum is to be on the south side of the B 3109 a short distance west of Pickwick - the address and telephone number for enquiries is 1 High Street, Seend, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6NR - Corsham 712021.

The museum will, it is hoped, open in Spring 1985.

It can supply the following publications:

"Tanky" Elms - Bath stone quarryman, by CJ Hall - four pounds 95p + 57p postage.

Bath freestone workings, by Liz Price - three pounds + 39p postage.

Bath stone - a quarry history, by Brooks et al - one pound 25p + 21p postage.

CAMDEN WORKS MUSEUM, BATH: THE STORY OF BATH STONE

A display 'The Story of Bath Stone' opened at the Camden Works Museum in Bath on 1 June 1984. The museum is in Julian Road, BATH BA1 2RH (telephone BATH (0225) 318348) - open daily 2 - 5 pm - closed Fridays 1 October to Easter - closed 24/25 December - admission one pound (adults), 50p children/students/OAPs, two pounds (bargain family ticket); parties in or out of regular opening hours by special arrangement.

DENEHOLES IN THE GRAVESEND AREA

A booklet of this title, written by member Rod Le Gear, has just been published by the Kent Underground Research Group. Of 9 pages (A4), illustrated, this may be obtained for XXXp from KURG at 18 Bladindon Drive, BEXLEY, Kent DA5 3BP.

DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC SUBTERRANEAN SITES

An article in the Sunday Times Magazine of 26 August listed 62 publicly accessible underground sites in the UK. The Committee has decided to try to extend this list and keep it up to date - suggestions for entries to the Chairman please, who will put all the data on a floppy disc and supply printouts (SBPS) on receipt of 25p in stamps.

CLEVELAND - Tom Leonard Mining Museum - 'The Museum of the Cleveland Ironstone Industry' - is at Skinningrove, east of

Saltburn, and includes a brick-lined drift 20 metres long at the end of which is a 'staple' or access shaft; it is centred on the remains of the former Loftus ironstone mines in the Skinningrove Valley, East Cleveland, on the coast between Saltburn and Staithes. The museum is open on Sundays 13.30 - 16.30 - telephone 0287 - 34456.

EXCHANGE VISITS SCHEME - SBEV

MJ BREAKSPEARE - 7 Red Pit, Dilton Marsh, WESTBURY, Wilts would be happy to take groups of up to six persons into the Box stone mines near Bath; visitors would require boiler suits or old clothes and wellington boots; helmets and lights can be provided; trips would be of about 2 hours, mostly walking, with a few scrambles over roof-falls. Visits to Mendip caves could also be arranged.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE - SBIE

Bruce OSBORNE - Tower House, Tower Road, TADWORTH, Surrey - underground dwellings, stone quarries, mines, mineral springs, holy wells, spas, and water sources.

David POLLARD - The Old Post Office, Seend, Melksham, Wilts SN12 6NR - since unsuccessfully trying to unravel the remains of a very early and now unique underground crane in a Bath stone quarry, I have become increasingly absorbed by the evolution and design of cranes in underground quarries. Hence I am trying to locate survivors and photographs of those which have now disappeared. Cranes are known to exist in at least 11 Bath stone quarries and in one quarry at Nailsworth. Photographs also show cranes in use at Chilmark, Beer, and Seacombe; cranes were also used at Winspit. Can any SB member or other reader add to the list - my interest extends to overseas quarries.

NEWS FROM CAEN

Subterranean quarry research is getting into gear in Normandy - stimulated to an extent, perhaps, by SB interest. The latest issue of Archeologia (195, for October 1984) contains in pages 34 - 40 an illutrated article 'Archeologie urbaine. Les carrieres de Caen' by Jean-Yves Marin and Francois Fichet de Clairfontaine. And our most recently enrolled French member, Laurent Dujardin, has recently sent us extracts from his own study of the Caen quarries, and looks forward to welcoming SB members to Lower Normandy.

OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY ACT 1984

The Act is concerned with the civil liability of an occupier to persons on his land and, so far as concerns those on his land who are outside the scope of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 (c. 31), it follows the Law Commission's

recommendations on the subject in their Report No 75 (1976) Cmnd. 6428 and also those of the Royal Commission on Civil Liberty and Compensation for Personal Injury (1978) Cmnd. 7054 - 1, paragraphs 1546 to 1550. It does not apply to Scotland or Northern Ireland.

the rules of the common law governing the duty of an occupier as to the safety of persons who are outside the scope of the 1957 Act, that is to say, persons who are on his land without his permission, either with lawful authority (eg in exercise of a private right of way or a public right of access) or without. The statutory rules resolve points of doubt or difficulty in the existing law which arise from the decision in BRITISH RAILWAYS PROPERTY BOARD v. HERRINGTON [1972] A.C. 877.

Clause 2 redraws the boundaries of 'business liability' for the purposes of Part I of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 (c. 50). It enables the occupier of business premises, such as farm land, who permits visits for recreational purposes, such as rock climbing, to include terms in the permission which restrict or exclude his liability to such visitors in respect of the dangerous state of the prtemises.

[abstracted from the explanatory memorandum to the Bill]

RESERVE THESE DATES NOW!

CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE - Saturday 26 January 1985

CROYDON STONE QUARRY SYMPOSIUM - Saturday 16 March 1985

FULL DETAILS IN DUE COURSE

STOP PRESS ...

Blisworth Tunnel Re-opened
Extensive repair works to one of Britain's oldest tunnels
22nd August 1984

This four-page colour supplement to Waterways News is available from the Press Office, British Waterways Board, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, LONDON NW1 6JX

Cliff Williams : Driving the Clay Cross Tunnel. Navvies on the Derby/Leeds railway (1984)

Cromford : Scarthin Press, Promenade, Scarthin, Cromford, Derbys DE4 3QF 88pp illus. £ 2.85 incl. p/p.